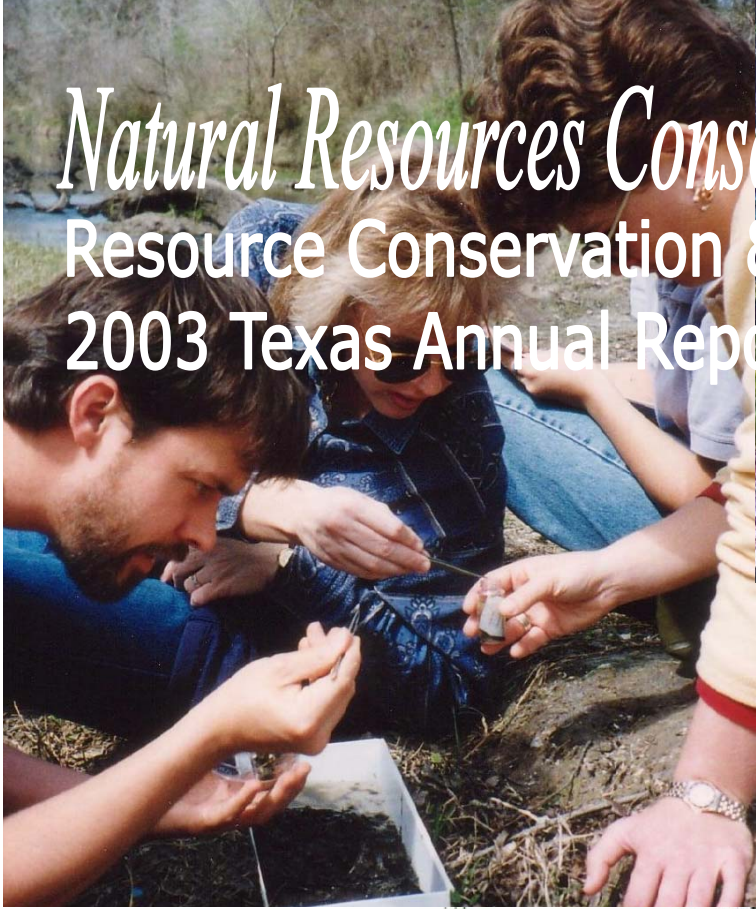


Natural Resources Conservation Service

Resource Conservation & Development

2003 Texas Annual Report





United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation
Service

Message from Larry D. Butler, Ph.D., NRCS State Conservationist, Texas

It would be a modest statement to say that 2003 was a marquee year for the RC&D program here in Texas. Texas NRCS committed over \$2.6 million to support the work of the authorized areas. In addition to the great projects that all 23 RC&D Councils have completed, the year was highlighted by the National Association of RC&D Councils Conference that was hosted by the Texas RC&D Councils in San Antonio.

2004 promises great accomplishments as well. NRCS Texas has made a strong commitment of resources to assist the Sabine-Neches RC&D become authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture and will be providing more funding opportunities for councils. We are proud to be a member of the partnership serving Texas communities.

NARCDC Conference

Texas hosted the tri-annual National Association of RC&D Councils Conference from July 20th through the 23rd. The event was hosted by the Texas Association of RC&Ds and each of the individual RC&D Councils in Texas with Alamo RC&D as the local host. The Texas RC&D Councils spent over 2 years of planning and hard work to make the meeting the most attended conference to date. Over 1600 RC&D Council members, partners and exhibitors came and supported the RC&D program. The 2006 meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia.



Council Highlights

Land Conservation

- ★ **Big Country RC&D** completed a four year project to treat the Oak Creek and Lake Trammell Watersheds to control erosion and sedimentation. Both reservoirs are primary drinking water sources for many communities.
- ★ The Blackland Conservation Tillage Alliance, lead by **Central Texas RC&D**, is educating farmers about conservation tillage through an informational video.
- ★ The **De-Go-La RC&D** began an initiative to restore riparian areas to serve as filters to remove sediment and contaminants from runoff before it enters the fragile estuarine habitats found in the Coastal Bend of Texas.

- ★ Assisted by the **Chihuahuan Desert RC&D**, the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe, will be restoring 30 acres of eroded desert grassland and protecting the cultural resources of the Hueco Mountains and Hueco Tanks.

Water Management

- ★ www.litterhotline.com is the result of the **Pineywoods RC&D** working with Texas poultry producers to identify, evaluate and deploy alternative litter management practices that address water quality concerns associated with traditional on farm litter management practices.
- ★ To improve water quality of the Bosque River, the **Leon-Bosque RC&D** began a project to develop a commercial market for compost produced by the dairies in Erath County and to provide financial assistance to apply a mix of compost and sand to athletic fields as soil amendments.
- ★ To educate private water well owners on how to protect underground water supplies, and to better manage the area around the wellhead, the **Four Winds RC&D** conducted Rural Water Screening programs in seven Texas counties.
- ★ With funding from the Supplemental Environmental Project, the **Sabine-Neches, Alamo, Northeast Texas** and **Concho Valley RC&D** Areas have treated water quality issues from failing septic systems and abandoned tire dumps.

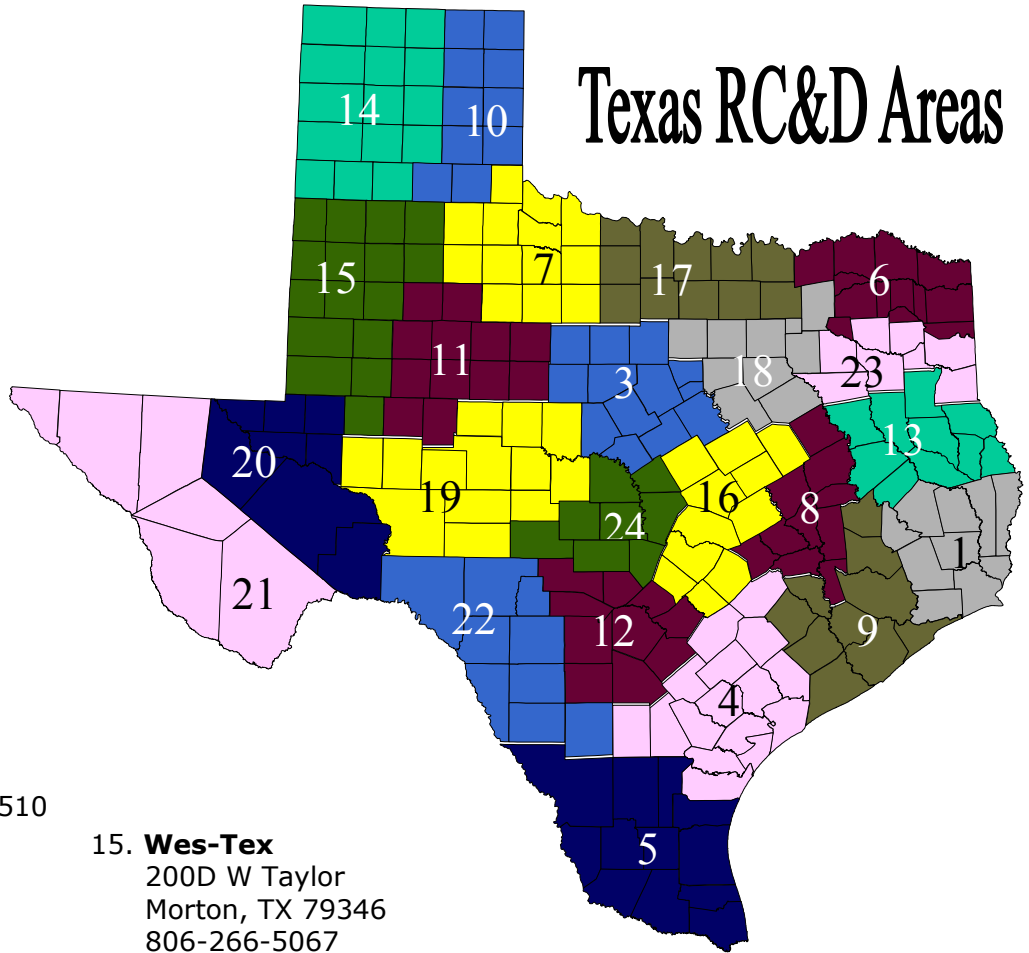
Community Development

- ★ The **Rio Grande-Nueces RC&D** Council co-sponsored a seminar which provided area producers with information on services and programs that are available through various USDA agencies and the Cooperative Extension Service.
- ★ **Chisholm Trail RC&D** negotiated agreement with Milk Transport Services to provide emergency water transportation to any community within the 11 county Area during times of disaster.
- ★ In partnership with Texas Rural Partners, **Pecos Valley RC&D** led Rural Resource Teams in the communities of Iraan and Sheffield to evaluate the town's strengths and weaknesses and developed ideas for improving the economic environment, perception and future viability.
- ★ To aid in the success of small town survival and foster new community leaders, the **High Plains RC&D** hosted a leadership training program in Spearman based on the curriculum set forth by the Texas Rural Leadership Program Inc.
- ★ The **Rio Bravo RC&D** completed the South Texas Eco-Tourism Marketing Alliance as a support network to advertise and promote ranches as a preferred tourist destination. A three hundred mile Ranching Heritage Trail is one result of this effort.
- ★ A constructed wetland for home site septic systems was demonstrated by **Big 8 RC&D** using 476 crushed toilets as a media for plant growth.
- ★ **Wes-Tex RC&D**, partnering with Gifts In Kind International, is distributing donated household items to needy, ill and youth of the Area.
- ★ Llano and Rockwall Counties installed their first dry fire hydrants with the assistance of the Texas Forest Service and the **Hill Country** and the **Bluebonnet RC&D Areas** respectively.

Land Management

- ★ The **Southeast Texas RC&D** is leading the effort to restore a series of saltwater intrusion barriers located on the East Bay-Elm Bayou that were installed in 1962 that have deteriorated and eroded over the course of time endangering water resources for landowners and the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge.
- ★ In an effort to save one of the most endangered species in North America, the **Sam Houston RC&D** partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop management plans for habitat restoration of the Attwater's Prairie Chicken.
- ★ The **North Rolling Plains RC&D** lead the partnership to publish educational material, develop a traveling exhibit, and will be holding a field day benefiting range management and the Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat.

Texas RC&D Areas



1. **Southeast Texas**
204 East Polk
Livingston, TX 77351
936-327-6408
3. **Leon-Bosque**
PO Box 359
Glen Rose, TX 76043
254-897-3747
4. **De-Go-La**
658 Big Bend Drive
Victoria, TX 77904
361-570-7138
5. **Rio Bravo**
PO Box 1006
Zapata, TX 78076
956-765-6911
6. **Northeast Texas**
1745 D Ballard Drive
Paris, TX 75460
903-784-6679
7. **Four Winds**
PO Box 548
Knox City, TX 79526
940-658-3680
8. **Big 8**
1716 Briarcrest Dr, Suite 510
Bryan, TX 77802
979-846-0819
9. **Sam Houston**
113 South Trice
Willis, TX 77378
936-890-4884
10. **North Rolling Plains**
1224 N Hobart, Suite 109
Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-0312
11. **Big Country**
PO Box 1114
Sweetwater, TX 79556
325-235-4300
12. **Alamo**
4100 Piedras Dr. East, # 253
San Antonio, TX 78228
210-735-3391
13. **Pineywoods**
118 Hospital Dr., Suite 103
Nacogdoches, TX 75964
936-658-0414
14. **High Plains**
1306 W 9th
Friona, TX 79035
806-250-2050

15. **Wes-Tex**
200D W Taylor
Morton, TX 79346
806-266-5067
16. **Central Texas**
PO Box 1295
Taylor, TX 76574
512-352-1318
17. **Chisholm Trail**
PO Box 454
Bowie, TX 76230
940-872-7002
18. **Bluebonnet**
504 N Ridgeway, Suite C
Cleburne, TX 76003
817-645-2883
19. **Concho Valley**
PO Box 627
Brady, TX 76825
325-597-4666
20. **Pecos Valley**
1900 S. Stockton, Suite 10
Monohans, TX 79756
432-943-3888
21. **Chihuahuan Desert**
PO Box C61
Alpine, TX 79832
432-837-8247
22. **Rio Grande-Nueces**
321 East Main
Uvalde, TX 78801
830-279-0164
23. **Sabine-Neches**
4209 Republic Drive
Tyler, TX 75701
903-561-2050
24. **Hill Country**
PO Box 388
Mason, TX 76856
325-347-5005

For more information contact:

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101 South Main
Temple, TX 76501
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